

Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department

George Smith, Fire Chief
606 Douglas Highway
Lamoine, ME 04605

Emergency: 9-1-1

Station: (207) 667-2623



Proposed Budget FY 2017/18

That you for considering the 2017/18 fire department budget. There are some situations that have affected the current year budget and result in a skew of sorts when making comparisons. As you likely know, Engine 401 (the 1995 pumper), burned a pump last summer, resulting in over \$16,000 in unexpected repairs. Insurance covered the bulk of that but not all, so the Selectmen called a special town meeting which approved a \$6,200 appropriation from surplus to cover the unexpected expense. This amount was added into the fire department's budget for FY 16/17, resulting in a bottom line that shows \$59,350, when the town meeting approved amount was actually \$53,150.

Instead of reiterating each line that we've had for years, please allow me to address only those lines that have a change from the current budget to note.

Pump Maintenance – As stated above, the addition of \$6,200 in October resulted in a higher operating budget. The original budget approved at the annual town meeting was actually \$2,500. The proposed FY 18 budget is \$3,000, which is a \$500 increase (though it shows a \$5,700 decrease) from the originally passed budget. We're finding that some of the pumps are getting more expensive to repair as the pumps and truck age.

Radio Maintenance – The department has a good problem to have – a lot of volunteers. We've had more than a half dozen people join the department in the past year or so. They require a pager to get dispatched to the fire. Some of the pagers have been needing more maintenance as they age. The \$900 for radio maintenance covers repairs and batteries for the pagers and portable 2-way radios. It is based on the actual from the previous fiscal year.

Inoculation Program – The above mentioned "problem" has required more Hepatitis "A" and "B" shots to be administered. We also supply a flu shot to members who desire one. This cost has increased a bit over the years, and the \$200 increase to \$1,200 is based on previous year costs and expected future costs.

Station Maintenance – The Lamoine Fire Station is 25-years old, and it requires a lot of work to keep it in tip top shape. This year we are replacing an exterior door (they're not cheap!), and repairing two other exterior doors. We also need to paint the apparatus bay floor again (the trucks take a toll on the floor and guiding lines. The 5-year average for maintenance has been more than \$2,500, and the membership felt that a \$5,000 cost is more realistic.

Gas & Diesel (mostly diesel) – We not sure why, but there has been a surge in fire calls for 2016, and we don't see that changing in 2017. We've also engaged in a lot more driver training and that takes fuel. The \$100.00 increase is a reflection of that, and matches the 5-year average.

Pager – The previously referenced strong volunteer supply has exhausted our pager inventory. This proposed \$450 item would purchase one more pager.

Turnout Gear – This line item has doubled. The proposed \$5,000 would buy about 2-full sets of turnout gear. We have new members who are wearing ill fitting gear, so this is vitally important.

Air Pack Replacement – The department was turned down for an Assistance to Firefighting Grant last summer. The application requested that 10-airpacks be retired. We plan to reapply (time is running out) this fall. The proposed \$8,000 would buy approximately 2 airpacks. Presuming we are not funded through AFG, we can expect this amount to appear in the budget annually for several years to come as we replace a couple airpacks a year. It should be noted that two of the airpack units have failed in the past couple of months.

Equipment – This line is proposed to drop to \$0 for the coming fiscal year. The current year budget for \$500 was for rescue jaw hoses. We originally talked about a hose washer to be included in the 17/18 budget but the fire department has raised enough funds to cover the purchase of that item.

Hose/Truck Testing - The proposed figure matches the actual cost in FY 16, thus the \$100 increase. Such testing is required by the Maine Bureau of labor Standards.

Increase – The total budget is up \$13,950 from the amount approved at town meeting last March, but \$7,750 after the pump repair appropriation. We know this is a significant increase, but \$10,950 of the increase is for equipment purchases (pager, turnout gear, airpacks), and another \$2,500 for maintaining the fire station. When we look at the overall \$67,100 budget, the cost for manning and equipping a very good 35-member volunteer fire department is still much less than paying a full time fire chief.

Respectfully submitted,

George "Skip" Smith, Fire Chief